

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

The Leafcutter Ant

by Asa Spahn



Number of Words: 77

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover ©Martin Harvey/CORBIS. 1 ©Martin Harvey/CORBIS. 3 ©Ken King/Getty Images. 4 ©Kevin Schafer/CORBIS. 5 ©Michael & Patricia Fogden/CORBIS. 6 ©Zig Lezczynski/Animals Animals. 7 ©Mark Moffett/Minden Pictures. 8 ©Mark Moffett/Minden Pictures. 9 ©Anthony Bannister; Gallo Images/CORBIS. 11 ©Martin Harvey/CORBIS.

Copyright © 2006 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to School Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN: 0-618-64841-0

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 B 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05

The Leafcutter Ant

by Asa Spahn



Strategy Focus

As you read, think of **questions** you can ask about leafcutter ants.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

Key Vocabulary

antennae two long, thin feelers
on the head of an insect

cocoons coverings of silky thread
where larvae live as they grow

colonies groups of insects of the
same kind that live together

fungus a kind of plant that does
not have leaves or flowers

larvae very young ants or other
insects

tunnels long holes under the
ground

Word Teaser

A machine can dig these. You
can, too! What are they?

Have you ever seen a leafcutter ant?



Leafcutter ants cut leaves. They really do. They chew off pieces.



The ants carry the pieces back to the colonies where they live.



The ants crawl through tunnels
under the ground.



They bring the leaves to their nest.
Then, a **fungus** grows on the leaves.

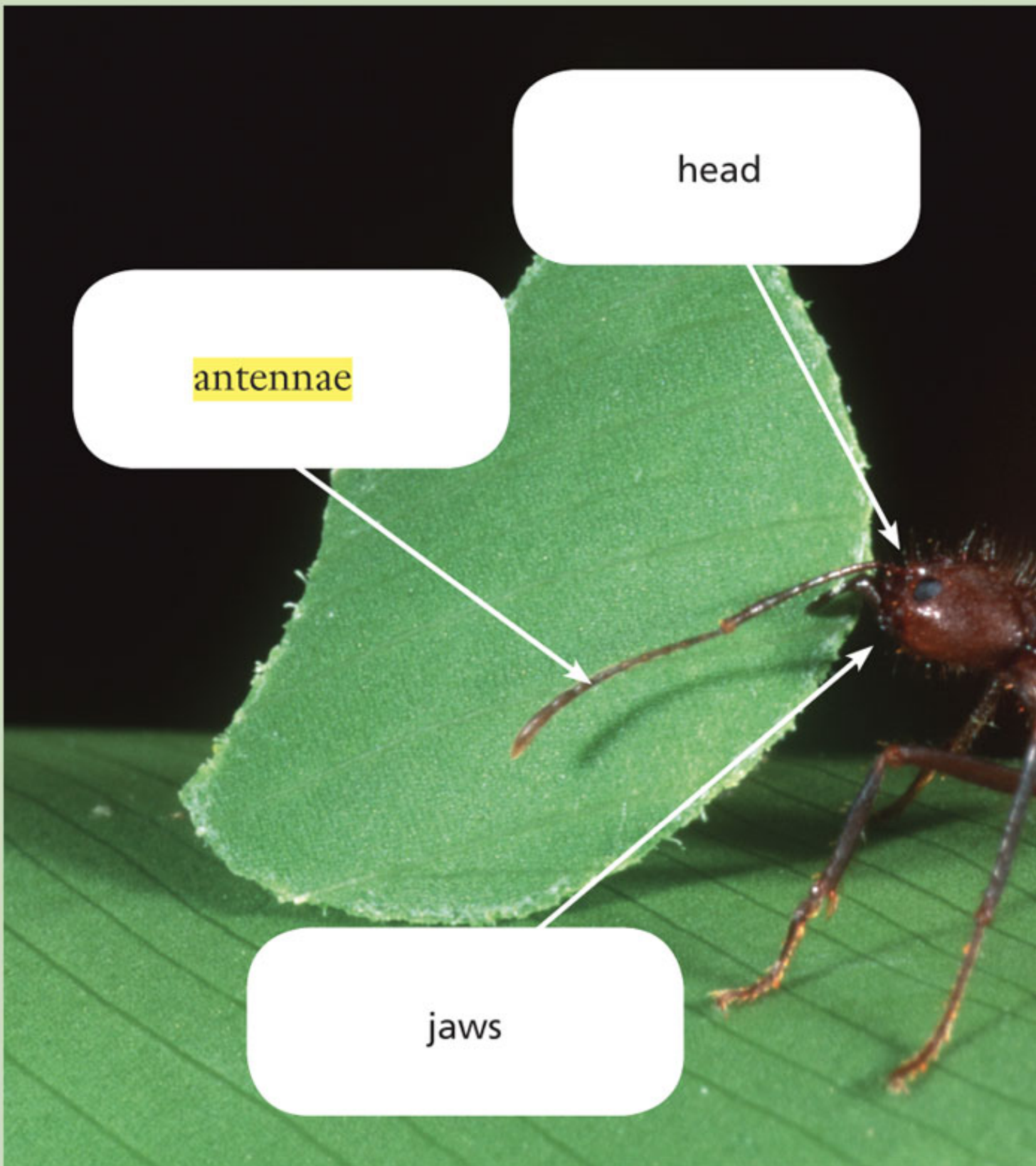


Baby ants eat the fungus.



Baby ants are called **larvae**. Most ant larvae grow inside **cocoons**.





A leafcutter ant looks like this when it grows up.

legs



Responding

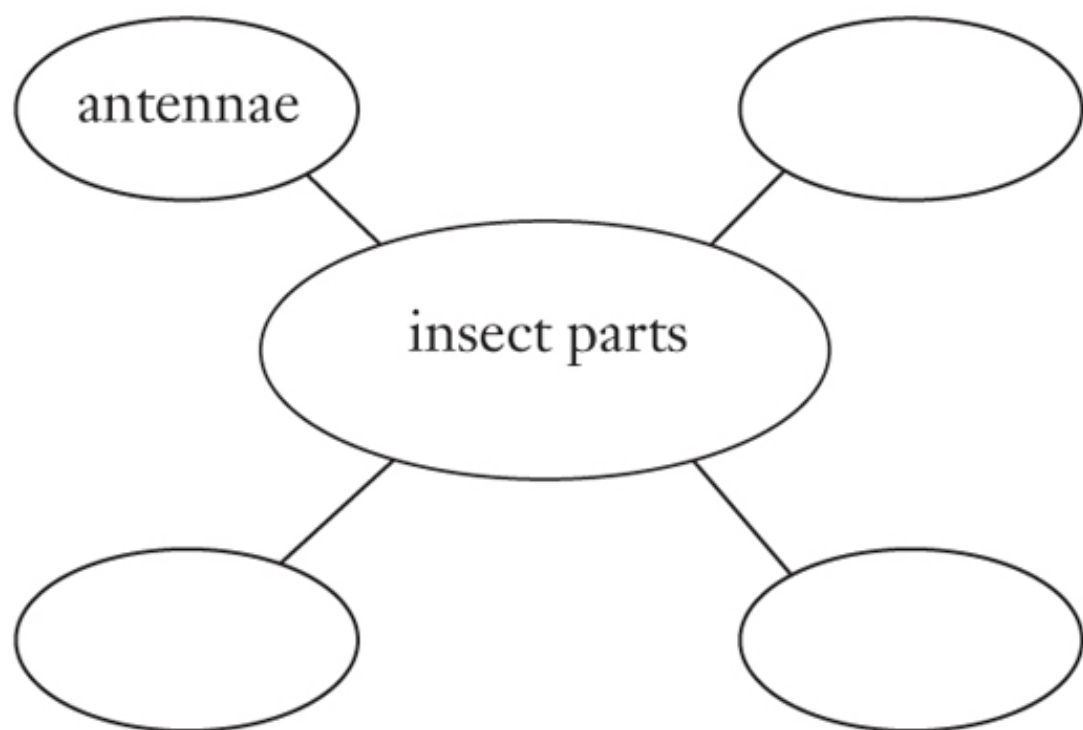
Putting Words to Work

1. What do you think ants use their **antennae** for?
2. Tell one detail you learned about **cocoons**.
3. What are two details you learned about **fungus**?
4. The ants crawl under the ground through long _____.
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Think of a word you learned in the book. Explain its meaning to your partner and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser
tunnels

Word Builder

Leafcutter ants and other insects have **antennae**. What other body parts do insects have? Make a word web and add other insect parts.



Write About It

Write a description of an insect you have seen. Use words from your word web. Tell where you might see the insect and what it can do.

Key Vocabulary

antennae

cocoons

colonies

fungus

larvae

tunnels

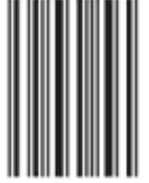
2.4.2

ISBN 0-618-64841-0



9 780618 648412

9 0000



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

1-31714